

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

April 12, 2007

**Aldermen Garrity, O'Neil,
Osborne, Gatsas, Duval**

5:00 PM

**Walter A. Stiles Conf. Rm.
City Hall (2nd Floor)**

Chairman Garrity called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Garrity, O'Neil, Osborne, Duval

Absent: Alderman Gatsas

Chairman Garrity advised that a letter from the City Solicitor had been received noting the any actions of the Committee would be recommendations to the full Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Chairman Garrity advised the purpose of the meeting was discussion relating to the proposed FY2008 CIP budget and commented that he had received requests from aldermen, which would be considered. A handout was distributed to all present containing an outline of the requests, attached copies, and recommendations to address some items.

Chairman Garrity requested Alderman Duval to address his communication.

1. Alderman Duval communication regarding
 - a) \$20,000 for creation of park at former Weston Street fire house site

Alderman Duval noted that residents had approached Committees and the Board last year regarding a proposal to create a park at the site of the former Weston Street firehouse. It was felt that \$20,000 would assist in beginning the process of creating a passive park on that site and he was looking for support for this project.

Chairman Garrity noted the recommendation was for \$16,000 cash funding.

2. Alderman Forest communication regarding
 - a) Security System for West Side Arena not funded
 - b) Playground equipment at West Junior Deb site
 - c) Playground equipment at Blodgett Park (near Maxwell Pond Dam/Front Street/Dunbarton Road)

This item was not discussed specifically. Alderman Forest was not available to address the item.

Chairman Garrity asked Alderman Lopez to address his items.

3. Alderman Lopez communications regarding:
 - a) \$35,000 for Employee Development programs
 - b) \$10,000-\$15,000 for Soldiers Memorial project

Alderman Lopez stated he had submitted the request for the Employee Development programs feeling it was of importance to consider. He had read the recommendations and understood the Chairman had some ideas about how to reduce costs to the project.

Alderman Lopez noted the second item was a request to help the Soldiers Monument project for the Civil War Memorial Fountain in Veterans Park noting the communication was self explanatory. He commented about the hard work that people had been doing on the project and the importance of the City supporting this effort.

Chairman Garrity recognized Alderman Roy to address his items.

4. Alderman Roy communications regarding:
 - a) Program reductions resulting from State/federal funding & Weed and Seed Program
 - b) Hallsville Roof report basis of funding
 - c) Non-bonding practice

Alderman Roy commented that the communication addressed his concerns and the item that stood out most was the Weed and Seed project. A discussion ensued relative to Weed and Seed where Chairman Garrity noted that they had taken care of the project to a full funding level of \$176,500 in the recommendations which was the amount requested by the Police Department.

Deputy Chief Leidemer agreed that the Police Department had been looking for \$175,000 and later corrected statements to concur that the actual amount needed was \$176,500 in total.

Alderman Roy commented on the Hallsville roof project noting he supported doing the project of course, but was concerned about the methods of funding and whether bonding would make more sense which he thought the Finance Department had been asked to look into.

Deputy Finance Director Sherman stated that Finance hadn't been asked to do that but that bonding was not being done in FY08, and the proposed cash funding of the project this year and in future years was noted.

It was noted that Finance was asked to look into something at the Board level.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson clarified that at the last Board meeting the finance Officer had been asked to look into the State Aid funding as a resource and she was not sure if Mr. Sherman was present at the meeting.

Deputy Finance Director Sherman advised that Finance was looking into the State Building Aid reimbursement potential regarding the project but had no definitive answers to report.

With regard to the bonding of projects, Alderman Roy stated that again as his communication stated he felt strongly that the City should not put off necessary expenditures, it was not a good fiscal practice.

Chairman Garrity stated that there was to be no bonding for Fiscal Year 2008.

Chairman Garrity asked Alderman Shea to comment on his items.

5. Alderman Shea communications regarding:
 - a) Holly Avenue sidewalk construction
 - b) So. Cypress Street drainage
 - c) Ruth Avenue drainage

Alderman Shea said that Holly Avenue was important but understood that funding was being made available.

Chairman Garrity asked Mr. Maranto to comment.

Mr. Maranto stated that while Holly Ave was not low/mod income it did meet CDBG requirements as an architectural barrier and funding for one side was being recommended at \$40,000, it would be the south side of the street.

Alderman Shea provided members with pictures and explanations regarding the South Cypress and Ruth Avenue drainage problems. The problems were substantial and Ruth Avenue went back as far as 10 years with another alderman prior to redistricting. It was an important project to get done.

Alderman O'Neil asked whether it was on the priority list for Highway to be done.

Mr. Sheppard advised that both were in the priority listing. With regard to Cypress Street they applied for funding elsewhere for this project.

Alderman Shea thanked Chairman Garrity for his consideration.

6. Alderman Smith communications regarding:
 - a) Support funding for 213108 YMCA Youth Opportunities Unlimited
 - b) Increase resurfacing to \$550,000-\$600,000 under 710708
 - c) Chronic Drain – some funds should be allocated

Alderman Smith was not present to address these items.

Chairman Garrity noted that the funding for the YMCA program was contained in the budget proposed by the Mayor and there was not intention to reduce it with any of the recommendations. He also noted the resurfacing currently proposed in the budget was \$500,000. Chairman Garrity commented that there was no funding for Chronic Drain in the recommendations.

Chairman Garrity turned discussion to the recommendations attached in the handout. He noted that with regard to Employee Training he had conversed with the Library Director and Ms. Lamberton and felt that \$15,000 could be removed from the employee newsletter costs if it was done in house and electronically. Chairman Garrity noted that Ms. Lamberton was not happy with this recommendation. His feeling was that the Library was doing it for \$0 and the City could do it cheaper. He noted that the newsletter costs were \$18,000 and he had left \$3,000 for software and printing that might be needed. Chairman Garrity commented that 40% of the employees do not have access to computers but that

the 60% that do should be receiving it electronically. He also noted that when previously discussed with Ms. Lamberton she had noted the web administrator position was not being replaced and lack of that position would create a problem with electronic newsletter, but now the position is being filled so it should be as much of an issue. He also commented that the Library staff time translated to 6 hours a month for a quarterly newsletter, the City's was every other month.

Alderman O'Neil noted that he received several newsletters on-line and felt they were good, perhaps not the highest color quality that the present City Matters was but still good and felt the City should be moving in that direction.

Chairman Garrity moved discussion to Child Health Services noting that they had switched some of the funding from their capital project to operational after discussing issues with the Director. Other members concurred they had received calls on this item and understood that CHS was requesting the change.

Chairman Garrity then referred to the second page of items noting the Visitor's Bureau was recommended to be eliminated from the Mayor's proposal to make room for other more critical needs such as the Weed and Seed program.

Alderman Roy asked if anyone had notified the Visitor's Bureau that this was being proposed.

Chairman Garrity stated he had not notified them and presumed they would not be happy, but felt the monies invested in MEDO was a bigger bang for the buck for the City. He did not feel the City was seeing the results.

Alderman O'Neil concurred with Chairman Garrity that it was perhaps a good project but not a necessity at this time when compared with other needs of the City.

Alderman Roy also agreed that in the larger picture of the City needs it was not the highest in priority, but had just wondered if anyone had spoken with them about the cut.

Chairman Garrity asked for a motion to approve recommending changes to the proposed FY08 CIP as presented.

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Duval it was voted to recommend changes to the FY08CIP budget resolution as outlined in attachment as follows:

I. CREATE THE FOLLOWING NEW PROJECTS:

- A. CIP 810608 MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION SYSTEM –TAX COLLECTOR’S OFFICE, \$140,000 CASH,
- B. CIP 511608 VETERAN’S PARK MEMORIAL REPAIR PROJECT, \$10,000 CASH
- C. CIP 810508 EMPLOYEE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT, \$14,500 CASH
- D. CIP 511508 WESTON STREET NEIGHBORHOOD PARK, \$16,000 CASH

II. ADD FUNDING TO THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

- A. CIP 411608 WEED N’ SEED, \$16,500 CASH & \$50,000 CDBG
- B. CIP 211408 CHILD HEALTH SERVICES OPERATIONAL, \$25,000 CDBG, SEE 211308 BELOW.

III. Decrease, substitute and/or eliminate funding from the following projects:

- A. CIP 510008 SUMMER CONCERTS, \$20,000 CASH, TO BE SUBSTITUTED WITH \$20,000 OF CBDRF. NOTE - LAST YEAR OF CITY FUNDING, INTOWN TO IDENTIFY ALTERNATE FUNDING SOURCE FOR FUTURE YEARS.
- B. CIP 211408 CHILD HEALTH SERVICES OPERATING, \$7,000 CASH
- C. CIP 211308 CHILD HEALTH SERVICES CAPITAL, \$25,000 CDBG – FUNDS TO BE USED BY CHS FOR OPERATIONAL PURPOSES -SEE 211408 ABOVE
- D. CIP 511308 MILLYARD MAINTENANCE \$10,000 CASH, FROM \$20,000 TO \$10,000.
- E. CIP 510608 ROCKINGHAM RECREATIONAL TRAIL, \$80,000 CASH ELIMINATED, ALSO ELIMINATE \$320,000 OF MATCHING STATE FUNDS, PROJECT TO BE FUNDED IN FY2009.
- F. CIP 612108 MANCHESTER AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU, \$80,000 CASH – PROJECT ELIMINATED.
- G. CIP 610108 HOUSING INITIATIVES-\$25,000 CDBG FROM \$150,000 TO \$125,000.
- H. CIP 611608 NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE -\$25,000 CDBG FROM \$150,000 TO \$125,000.

There were no members present in opposition.

Alderman O’Neil stated that he had been speaking with the Police Department and they had been researching into State and Federal funding with regard to Operation Streetsweeper and understood that as of this moment there was no funding for the program. He asked for the Chair’s indulgence to discuss this important project noting he had not submitted it because there had been research with the Attorney General’s office, Police and the federal side to see what was happening with the funding. He did not expect that the problem was going to be resolved this

evening, but with spring approaching it was important the loss of this \$300,000 project be addressed.

Discussion ensued where Deputy Leidemer advised that there was no funding for this Fiscal Year at present. The federal funds were “frozen” at present. The City’s direct payment to staffing of the police department, warrants and drug buys was about \$150,000 out of \$250,000. The actual project was \$294,000 in the past. Costs were related to overtime for undercover operations, State troopers and Attorney General staffing. It also included drug buy money that generally never gets recuperated. State Lab costs for forensic analysis and warrants.

Alderman O’Neil asked Chairman Garrity to review the matter perhaps for resolution next week.

7. Island Pond Road Bridge Replacement Funding

Mr. Kevin Sheppard, Deputy Director of Highway addressed this item explaining the contents of the letter. He advised that that initially the \$300,000 was appropriated with the intent that \$96,000 would be a local share and the balance of funds would be for other projects as needed. In order to proceed the department needed authorization to expend the full \$300,000 on this project and put with other funding toward the total \$455,000 needed. The intent was to recover the 80% state share of \$364,000 in July 2009 provided there was continued funding at the state level for the Municipal Managed Bridge Program, which the state had verbally indicated an agreement to. There was no guarantee at present but the department was confident the funding would be recovered, at which time the other projects could proceed.

In response to questions Mr. Sheppard advised that finishing this project was a very high priority.

On motion of Alderman O’Neil, seconded by Alderman Duval, it was voted to authorize the Highway Department to proceed with the Island Pond Road Bridge Replacement project expending the full \$300,000 at this time. There were no members present in opposition.

8. Victory Parking Garage lighting system (referred by BMA)

Tim Clougherty was asked to address this item. He advised that they had been requested to look at the efficiency and safety issues relating to the lighting fixtures. He advised that at present the way the lighting was placed there was some lighting in the center and as you moved to the sides there was little to no lighting at the head of the vehicles.

Alderman O'Neil asked if they were looking into the safety issues as well.

Mr. Clougherty replied that they had not been asked to look at anything other than the lighting at this time.

Alderman O'Neil emphasized the importance that safety, lighting and electrical should all be coordinated if anything is done.

With regard to funding it was generally concurred that funding was available in the current fiscal year for this project. Mr. MacKenzie stated he would speak with Brandy and verify the situation.

9. Karatzas Avenue Housing Project (requested by BMA)

It was concluded that the \$500,000 was not in the current budget. Mr. MacKenzie advised that they were still working on some details related to the project. It was concluded that this would be ready for consideration with report from Mr. MacKenzie in a couple of weeks.

Chairman Garrity moved discussion to MST and distributed a communication from the Mayor's office. He commented on the importance of having everyone on the same page with regard to this project. Chairman Garrity stated that the Mayor and Frank Bass had spoken. Chairman Garrity noted it was intended that a meeting would be scheduled with the Mayor, School and State officials. Chairman Garrity felt strongly that this meeting should be held prior to any actions by the City. He noted that construction would not occur in FY08 and so the bond authorization would not be needed yet.

In response to questions Tim Clougherty advised that they had executed an agreement for Design and Engineering for 50% of the construction documents in April of 2006. The plan was submitted to the State in September 2006. Karen White and Karen DeFrancis had been working with the State and at this point they were waiting for state funding.

Chairman Garrity stated we have no word from the state that they are going to fund this and suggested that they wait a couple of weeks for a meeting with local, state and school officials.

Questions were raised as to the timetable of when the \$2.5 million would be needed.

Karen White addressed the committed advising of the funding needs noting the City portion was \$2.5 million. Based on funding availability they wanted to initiate in July 2007. The state portion was \$7.4 million over one biennium. The State funding portion was in HB25, a capital improvement budget bill which had passed the House and was now in the Senate.

Alderman Long expressed concerns about how Epsom had passed their bond and if Manchester's was not in place it was possible the state would pull the plug on funding the project for this biennium.

Alderman O'Neil agreed that if the City did not obligate it's portion of the funding it was very possible this would happen. The local commitment was always looked for at state level before the funding would be endorsed. He and other aldermen asked about the actual issuance of the bonds, if a bond resolution was passed for FY08 it would not be sold until the actual cash was needed was that correct.

Chairman Garrity noted that there was no bonding for FY08.

Deputy Finance Officer Sherman advised that he saw no need at this time to pass a bond resolution since the construction wouldn't start for some time. After repeated questioning, he advised that it was correct if the resolution was submitted and passed, the money would not generally be borrowed until needed, and payments would not be until after 2009 if it was authorized now.

Alderman Duval, O'Neil and Osborne felt it important to show a commitment by the City of at least an intent to Bond. Following brief discussion and clarification on motion of Alderman Duval, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to recommend that the Board approve a commitment to match funding for the MST project with bonding of project funds at the appropriate time. There were none recorded in opposition.

Alderman Duval asked if there was a fund established to address City Hall maintenance items, how that worked. He noted that he has seen the paint falling off the tower and that he was aware of issues with windows ready to fall out of the building.

Tim Clougherty reported there were a significant amount of repairs currently needed in the complex, for which funding had been requested in the CIP. He noted that the City Hall Complex was placed with all other facilities and rated by priority in their requests.

In response to question Mr. MacKenzie advised that there used to be an account but that it had been used up.

Alderman Duval noted the building was of prominence and significant private and public dollars had been put into the buildings and it would be a shame to let it deteriorate. He commented that it was one of the buildings dating back prior to the Civil War, and asked if there were back up materials to the costs.

Mr. Clougherty advised that he had the breakdowns and could provide the information.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman Duval, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee